

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

FORM 15.

FIELD DIARY
AND
TRAVEL RECORD.

Mr. E. A. Goldman

(Official title.)

Period Dec. 4 to Dec. 25

Montana 1928,
NOTICE.

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8-3681

Dec. 4, 1928 (Tue)
Left Watlington, Mo.,
en route to Natural Bison
Range. 3:10 PM. Day warm
and pleasant.

Dec. 5 (Wed).
Light snow, about 2 in.,
on ground en route to
Chicago which was reached
at 9 AM. - in fact this
light snowfall continued all
along the way today and
the weather is quite cold.
Small ponds frozen over.
Went to bed as we were
leaving St. Paul about 12 PM

Dec 6 (Thurs) Snow all
along way today and weather

Dec. 6 con.

continued cold, Snow somewhat
deeper in places but usually
only about 2 in through which
yellowish grass and weeds and
dark shrubby forest. Soft
loam (where there is any) in the
prairie country and little
evidence of human activity
gave the landscape a dreary,
deserted, wintry aspect.

Reached Billings, Mont., at
midnight and I went to
bed after a long talk with
Mr. Wood, of Boise and
others on western conditions.

Dec. 7 (Fri), en route

Light snow on ground near
Butte, Mont., and weather
cold. Arrived Dixon 12:55 P.M.

Dec. 7, em

Mr. Tunny, the agent had
plowed they were asking that
I be met at Bison Range, But
Rose and all the men were
out and I had to wait an hour
or more until one of the men
could meet me. Arrived at
Bison Range about 3 PM.

When Rose came in I saw
about 300 buffaloes had
been corralled during the day,
and 64 head of elk have been
put in. A high fog shutting
in the hills but having clear
air at low levels makes work
of gathering animals difficult
just now.

Dec. 8 (Sat) Bison Range,
Rising in morning up along the river.

Dec. 8 con.

Myadestes, I saw 15 flying
upon juniper - in (near together)
along Wisconsin St. One finally
perched on an aspen top. It
a juniper where it gave a
series of short, rather sharp
notes "whit, whit, whit, whit"
were answered in the same way
by the other bird. Made another
trip up the creek in the afternoon.

Mr. Rose continued rounding up
buffalo today and succeeded in
bringing in all except about
9 head.

Dec. 9. (Sun.) Nat. Bison
Range, Mont.

Began today separation of
buffaloes to be slaughtered from
those to be held for breeding

Dec. 9, con.
and exhibition purposes.
Separated 62 of best desirable
for W. S. Buxton who has been
the successful bidder at
\$50 per head.

Weather much warmer today - a
chinook blowing and carrying off
snow covering very fast.

Dec. 10 (Mon.) Hot Spring Range
Finished today separation of
buffaloes for Buxton who is to take
a total of 131 head.

Buffaloes. Most of herd was worked
through chutes today, and there
was little difficulty met with, care
must be exercised as buffaloes are
always very dangerous, but
the men enter the corrals in foot and
separate buffaloes to be driven through

Die. 10 am.

getting the one thing that perhaps now
facilitates handling is the fact that
most of the animals are rather young

Dec. 11 (Tues) Nat. Bison

Range.

Completed roundup of elk
today - about 29 were added
to those in corral bringing the
total to about 90.

Dec. 12 (Wed) Nat.

Bison Range.

Visited various parts of range
today to check up on progress.
Roe and I climbed in foot
from road near Paralle up
to head of Elk Creek. I was
surprised at poor bison condition
found. In evening I went west

Dec. 12 con

Rose to a place in Moine Valley where shooting of ducks after sunset has been reported, but we found no evidence of game law violation.

Dec. 13 (Thurs) Nat.

Bison Range.

Dave and I made a trip through the northeastern corner of pasture where on slopes over a small area forage is still fairly good owing to fact that both buffaloes and elk ~~seem to~~ neglect this area probably due to local topographic conditions which cause them to walk around it. Rose and I went again

Dec. 13 con.

in evening to place where shooting after sunset had been reported, but everything was quiet.

When we returned in the evening we found Mr. C. T. Allen, Superintendent of the American Express Co., who is to be in general charge of meat shipments for this Co. We have been expecting W. S. Lester, the purchaser of the buffaloes and elk rounded up for several days.

Dec. 14 (Fri) Nat.

Brown Ring, Mont.

Mr. Lester came early this morning and a start was made

Dec, 14 con.
on the Butchering operations.

Rose and I went with Buster
up to Bitterroot valley to secure
a butcher living on a ranch.
The trip enabled me to see
a large part of the valley that
was new to me.

Dec. 15 (Sat.) Nat. Bison
Range, Mont.

Watching Butchering operations
in progress. 6 P.

In afternoon Rose, Mr. Allen
C. J. Furry, local station agent
and I made a trip by auto
over new road to High Point
in hills in pasture.

New Road. This is about 3
miles in length and cost about

Dec. 15 cm.

* 500 feet wide. It extends from
corals in Pauline Draw up
the steep upper slopes of hills
to beyond the highest or so-
called High Point over the
crest of which it passes to
a point on the ridge beyond.
It parallels the new fence
(No. 8) for considerable distance
and greatly facilitated getting
hauling materials on to the
ground. As the fence however
~~crosses~~ the highest part of the
range where slopes are steep
it would otherwise have been
expensive to get materials on the
ground. This road will be of
great scenic value, besides being
of great utility in getting over

Dec. 15 con.

the range.

Weather, It was foggy and snowing today when we made our trip to the top. But the snow fall was very light and in the evening the sky cleared again.

High Point. The highest point of the range is estimated by Rose - and his estimate seems not far off - to be between 2000 and 2500 ft. above headquarters.

In late afternoon we visited Alexander Basin for a check on forage. Conditions there have become much poorer than in the past and forage is in very bad condition. This part of range becoming weedy and

Dec. 15 cm.
desirable forage disappearing
very fast.

Forage conditions Forage conditions
in general on the range have
greatly deteriorated since I took
over them last year. The
summer has been a dry one and
forage growth was short. As a
result much of the grass is
already close-cropped - this
applying especially to the
more palatable species such
as the bunch grasses - Festuca
scabrilla and F. idahoensis.
The latter lies deeply rooted,
is apt to be pulled up in
bunches and dropped by grazing
animals. The surface is
badly cut and breaking down

Dec. 15 am.

in place, the result being ^{and loss of timber} erosion which is likely to become serious, it is evident to me that carrying capacity will be very greatly reduced - in fact has already been reduced. Rose tells me Glen Smith estimated the stand at 4 normal and from the carrying capacity at only between 300 & 400 of buffaloes alone if other game animals are excluded.

Elk. Rose in a way has become convinced that there are many more than he supposed - he puts it at about 300 more and estimates that there are over

Dec, 15 con
500 elk as they are corralled
in part for delivery & butcher.
Spring feeding conditions
indicate that need of spring
feeding has never been
greater than at the present
time.

Dec, 16 (Sun.) Nat Bison
Range. Watching butchering operations.

Dec. 17 (Mon.) Missoula,
Mont. Left Bison Range with Dove
and drove to Missoula where we
attended luncheon of Federal Business
Men's Association, and I was asked
to speak on my game work. Mr. Case
the Superintendent of the Indian
Agency accompanied us to Missoula.

Dec. 17 con.

In afternoon we saw J. R. Karlson
in regard to the possibility of
disposing of some elk to the
state. He said he would take
the matter up with the state game
commission at its next meeting.
Spent evening largely with
Glen A. Smith and family.
attended also meeting of local
division of American Forestry Assoc.

Dec. 18. (Tues) Nat. Bison
Range, Mont.

Returned with Rose by auto to
Bison Range where butchering
operations are being pushed rapidly.

Dec. 19 (Wed.) Nat. Bison
Range, Mont. Two cars shipped today.

Dec. 20 (Thurs), National
Antelope Range Mont.

W.S. Center is to receive
15 more buffaloes in accordance
with telegram from Washington;
all a roundup is being made
today.

Range (carrying capacity)

Glen A. Smith, after examination
of range with one of his grazing
experts who Rose says concerned
figures stand at 4 normal and
present carrying capacity as
follows:

Buffaloes	195
Elk	50
Deer	100
Mt. Sheep	100
or of Buffalo alone	324

Dec 20 con.

Wade deer. 12 found dead along
creek last winter. Stocking 6 in
1918 & 17 in 1921

White-tail deer Stocking 17 in
1921

Dec. 21 (Fri.) Natural
Bison Range, Mont.

Most of day spent in
separating 15 additional
buffaloes for W.S. Curtis.
In evening drove with him
to Missoula.

Dec. 22 (Sat)
Left Missoula 8:35 A.M.
for Washington D.C.

Dec 23-24
En Route

Dec. 25.
Arrived Washington. D.C.
9 A.M.